

S.F. No. 75 – Autonomous mower technology research by Department of Transportation

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S.F. 75 requires the Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”) to conduct research into autonomous mowing technology, which are robotic or automated devices designed to cut grass or vegetation with programming or predefined routes to minimize the need for human intervention.

Section 1 requires the commissioner to study autonomous mowing operations by other governments or private entities to determine whether such a system can be deployed at or on property owned by MnDOT. Research must study different configurations and types of autonomous mowers to determine whether they could operate around obstacles or in difficult terrain. If MnDOT opts to purchase a mower as part of its research, the technology must be purchased from a Minnesota company. Requires a legislative report by February 15, 2027.

Section 2 appropriates \$150,000 in fiscal year 2026 from the general fund for research and purchase of the autonomous mower.

